CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method of recognizing a data format preference of a device, comprising the steps of

connecting a device to a network having a data repository;

sending a device format preference to the data repository of the network when the

device is connected to the network; and

utilizing the device format preference from the data repository on the network, so that

the network can recognize the device.

2.   The method of claim 1, which further comprises saving the device format preference

in the data repository.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the device format preference is sent with a device

identifier.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the device format preference is saved with a network

address of the device to be used as a device identifier by the data repository.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the device connected to the network sends the device

format preference each time it is connected to the network.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the network is automatic configuration network, so that any device connected thereto sends the device format preference upon initial connection to the network.

7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of

sending a request for specific information by the device;

extracting specific information from a data storage by the data repository;

retrieving the device format preference by the data repository using the device identifier;

formatting the specific information according to the device format preference; and

sending the specific information to the device from the data repository over the network.

8.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the device is an electronic device and the request for the specific information and device format preference are in the form of one or more data packets.

9.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the data repository is an extensible Markup Language (XML) data repository.

10.   The method according to claim 7 wherein the data repository includes an XML database in communication with an Extensible Stylesheet Transform (XSLT) engine in communication with the network.

11.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the request for information is in an XSL stylesheet.

12.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the network is an IHDN.

13.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the device is any one of the group comprising a personal computer, personal digital assistant, television, video cassette recorder, personal video recorder, remote control, and audio system, and the specific information requested is electronic program guide information.

14.   A method of recognizing a device format preference for excerpted electronic program guide information of a device on an IHDN network, the method comprising the steps

        connecting the device to the network that has an XML data repository;

        sending an XSL stylesheet request for excerpted EPG information, including a device format preference from the device over the IHDN network to an XSLT engine in communication with the XML data repository; and

        utilizing the device format preference from the XML data repository on the network, so that the network can recognize the device.

15.   The method of claim 14, further comprising

        extracting the requested excerpted EPG information by the XSLT engine from the XML data repository;

        formatting the excerpted EPG information in accordance with the data format preference of the device; and

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sending the excerpted EPG information by the XSLT engine to the device over the IHDN network.

16. A system for recognizing a data format preference of a device, the system comprising

a network that includes a data repository;

the device connected to the network, wherein the device has a data format preference;

a data packet containing a request for specific information that includes the device format preference, wherein the data packet is prepared by the device and transmitted over the network to the data repository of the network;

the data repository stores the device format preference, so that the network can recognize the device.

17. The system of claim 16, further comprising

the data repository extracts the specific information of the request, formats the specific information in accordance with the device data format preference, and transmits the specific information over the communication network to the device.

18. The system according to claim 16, wherein the data repository is an XML data repository, which includes an XML database in connection with an XSLT engine, and the request for specific information and the device format preference are in an XSL stylesheet.

19. The system according to claim 16, wherein the network is an IHDN.

20. The system according to claim 16, wherein the specific information requested is electronic programming guide information.